

OCT 26 1961

FOIAb3b

RADIO FREE EUROPE REPORT GIVEN HERE

CPYRGHT

Programs beamed by Radio Free Europe to people in the Soviet satellite states are helping them withstand the many day-to-day pressures of Communism, Clark Hungerford, president and board chairman of the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway said yesterday.

Hungerford is regional chairman for west central states in the 1962 fund drive for Radio Free Europe. He appeared yesterday with James P. Hickok, president of the First National Bank in St. Louis and Missouri chairman of the RFE fund drive, at a luncheon meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis at the Statler-Hilton Hotel.

Hickok and Hungerford were among a group of 60 Americans who earlier this month took a 10-day inspection trip of Radio Free Europe broadcast facilities in Portugal and West Germany.

The RFE is a private organization which presents the free world viewpoint in broadcasts behind the Iron Curtain.

More than 90 per cent of the programs broadcast from transmitters in Munich and Lisbon are getting through to listeners, Hungerford said. He said programs are beamed on numerous wave-lengths because of Russian jamming stations.

He said the Communist hierarchy revealed its concern over effectiveness of Radio Free Europe programs through numerous "uncomplimentary" mentions of the touring group on Radio Moscow and Radio Budapest. "They referred to us as '60 representatives of American millionaires' and 'the 60 workers of the reactionary and ill-famed Radio Free Europe,'" he said.

Hungerford and Hickok, who took a side trip to West Berlin, said they were impressed with the high morale and determination of the people there. They said the Soviet sector of East Berlin was a "dull, drab ghost town" in comparison with the Western sector.

Hickok said West Berliners felt that Allied acquiescence in

the building of the concrete wall separating East and West Berlin was a great catastrophe for the free world, but that the present crisis would not erupt into war. Berliners, mindful of recent Western setbacks in Cuba, Laos and South Vietnam, are fearful of further Allied appeasement in Berlin to avoid war, he added.

Opinion ballots on the Berlin crisis circulated among luncheon guests indicated that the West's basic stake in the crisis is to show the Russians that we will not be pushed any further. An overwhelming number of the 185 who cast ballots approved of negotiations with the Russians only after they had met certain prior commitments, such as removing the wall separating the divided city or guaranteeing Western access to the city.

The poll showed also that most

of the guests thought German reunification was no longer possible and that the United States should use nuclear weapons if necessary to keep Berlin.

CPYRGHT

CPYRGHT